

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has amended the claims to further define its invention and overcome the Examiner's rejections.

The examiner contends that the present invention is unpatentable in light of the prior art. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 13, 15, and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pavlic (US 2,998,474). Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 13, 15-17, 19, 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duff (US 2,890,264). Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 13, 15-17, 19, and 21-24 are rejected under 25 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimoto. Claims 5, 10, 11, 14, 18, 20, 21, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto, Pavlic, or Duff.

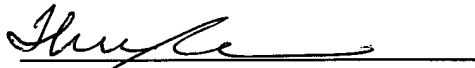
Regarding independent claims 1, 6, 15, 21, and 22, applicant has cancelled these claims and as such the Examiners rejection should now be considered moot. In addition, regarding dependent claims 3, 5-7, and 9, applicant has cancelled these claims and as such the Examiners rejection should now be considered moot.

In the present application the Examiner has allowed independent claim 26 and dependent claim 27. Regarding new independent claims 28 and 37. These claims are based on claim 26 and in view of the cited art should be allowable. Regarding old dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10-14, 16-20, and 23-24, these claims were rejected based on the dependency of rejected independent claims 1 and 15. Applicant has changed the dependency of these claims to new independent claim 37, and as such these dependent claims should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION


For the foregoing reasons, applicant's claims are patentable over the cited prior art and the application should be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Response was mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 17th day of March, 2006.


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